



# **COPS** *Fact Sheet*

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

[www.cops.usdoj.gov](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov)

## *COPS in Schools*

### *COPS Commitment to School Safety*

Communities throughout the nation have recognized that trained, sworn law enforcement officers assigned to schools make a difference. School resource officers (SROs) serve in a variety of roles, including that of a law enforcement officer, law-related educator, problem-solver, and community liaison. The SROs funded through the COPS in Schools (CIS) program teach programs such as crime prevention, substance abuse awareness, and gang resistance classes. SROs monitor and assist troubled students through mentoring programs and promote personal and social responsibility by encouraging participation in community service activities. SROs continue to build upon the respect and understanding between the law enforcement and school communities. These officers may also identify physical changes in the environment that may reduce crime in and around the primary and secondary schools, as well as assist in developing school policies which address criminal activity and school safety.

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) has awarded over \$695 million to more than 2,100 law enforcement agencies to fund more than 5,900 SROs through the COPS in Schools (CIS) program. In addition, COPS has dedicated more than \$21.7 million to training COPS-funded SROs and School Administrators who work in the partnering school(s) or school district(s) to work more collaboratively through the CIS program. This partnership must define and use community policing strategies and techniques to prevent school violence and implement educational programs.

### *Funding in FY 2002*

COPS awarded MORE than \$174 million in two rounds of CIS grants during the fiscal year 2002. These grants, announced in March and September, funded more than 1,500 new school resource officers across the nation.

### *Program Requirements*

The COPS in Schools grant program provides a maximum federal contribution of up to \$125,000 per officer position over the three-year grant period, with any remaining costs to be paid with local funds. CIS grant funding is for the payment of entry-level salaries and benefits of newly hired, additional SROs to be deployed to work in and around primary and secondary schools.

Each SRO must devote at least 75% of his/her time (measured weekly, monthly, or annually) to work in and around primary and secondary schools, in addition to the time that grantees would have devoted in the absence of the CIS grant. To be eligible under this grant program, jurisdictions must demonstrate that they have primary law enforcement authority within the partner school(s) identified in their application proposal. Officers paid with CIS funds must be hired on or after the grant award start date. CIS funds cannot be applied to an officer employed by the grantee prior to the award start date. However, CIS funds may be used to hire a new additional sworn officer to take the place of a locally-funded veteran that is then deployed as an SRO.

*"FREMONT IS A BETTER CITY TODAY  
BECAUSE OF THE OFFICERS WE HAVE IN  
OUR SCHOOLS. THE COPS IN  
SCHOOLS PROGRAM HAS ALLOWED US  
TO EXTEND COMMUNITY POLICING  
FROM OUR NEIGHBORHOODS TO OUR  
CLASSROOMS. THE EXTRA OFFICERS  
WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE COPS  
PROGRAM HAVE MADE A REAL DIFFER-  
ENCE IN FREMONT. NOT ONLY ARE  
THEY HELPING MAKE OUR SCHOOLS  
SAFER, BUT THEY ARE MENTORS AND  
POSITIVE ROLE MODELS FOR THE KIDS  
WHO NEED THE MOST HELP."*

*- CHIEF CRAIG STECKLER,*

*FREMONT, CALIFORNIA*

### *Training*

Grant award recipients of the CIS grant program are required to attend one three-day CIS training workshop sponsored solely by the COPS Office. Grantees must send each of the CIS officer(s) deployed into the school(s) as a direct result of receiving the grant and one school official from the specific school or school district into which the officer(s) will be deployed to the training. The COPS Office will pay for the training, travel, lodging, and per diem up to a maximum of \$1,200 per required participant.

### *Contact COPS*

For more information, call the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 1.800.421.6770, or visit the COPS website at: [www.cops.usdoj.gov](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov)